

Applicants: Fahey, et al.
Application No.: 09/530,370
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In the Claims

Please cancel claim 41 without prejudice.

Please amend claims 1, 2, 4, 7, 8, 9, 40, 42 and 46 rewritten to read as follows:

- C1
1. (Amended) A method of detecting a member of the taxa actinomycetes, comprising
- B3
- (a) sequentially incubating a thiol-selective reagent and a purified antibody that specifically binds to mycothiol or a thiol-containing mycothiol component with a sample for a time sufficient for said reagent or said antibody to react with mycothiol or thiol-containing mycothiol component; and
- (b) detecting reaction of said reagent or said antibody with said mycothiol or said thiol-containing mycothiol component,
- thereby indicating the presence of a member of the taxa actinomycetes.

- sub 9
D1
2. (Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said member of the taxa actinomycetes is mycobacteria.

- B4
4. (Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said antibody is incubated with the sample before said thiol selective reagent.

- sub
C2
17. (Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising

- B5
- (c) quantitating said mycothiol or said thiol-containing mycothiol component.

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8. (Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said thiol-containing mycothiol component is selected from 2-(*N*-acetylcysteinyl)amido-2-deoxy-D-glucopyranose and 1D-*myo*-inosityl-2-(L-cysteinyl)amido-2-deoxy- α -D-glucopyranoside.

4b
[3] 19. (Amended) An antibody which binds specifically to mycothiol or a thiol-containing mycothiol component.

40b
D1
B L 40. (Amended) A kit useful for detecting the presence of mycothiol or thiol-containing mycothiol component in a sample, the kit comprising: carrier means being compartmentalized to receive in close confinement therein one or more containers comprising a container containing an antibody specific for mycothiol or a thiol-containing mycothiol component to detect mycothiol or thiol-containing mycothiol component in the sample.

40b
D1
B 7 42. (Amended) The kit of claim 40, further comprising a container containing a detection reagent to detect the reaction of the mycothiol or thiol-containing mycothiol component with said antibody to detect mycothiol or thiol-containing mycothiol component.

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B⁸ 46. (Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the thiol-selective reagent comprises a thiol-reactive biotin derivative and a biotinylated mycothiol or biotinylated thiol-containing mycothiol component is formed in (a); and wherein said detecting in (b) comprises contacting the biotinylated mycothiol or biotinylated thiol-containing mycothiol component with a primary antibody that binds to mycothiol or the thiol-containing mycothiol component to form a complex and detecting the presence of said complex with a detection reagent that binds to biotin.